(b) to (d) M/s. Indian Oil Corporation, Indian Petrochemicals Corporation Ltd., National Aluminium Company, Gujarat Narmada Valley Fertiliser Ltd. Gujarat State Fertiliser Co. Ltd. etc. have sought exemption from the Employees' Pension Scheme, 1995. Under para 39 of the Scheme exemption can be considered in respect of an establishment, whose employees are entitled to pensionary benefits at par or more favourable than the benefit provided under the Employees Pension Scheme. Under the Scheme the Regional Provident Fund Commissioner is required to scrutinise the application for exemption and submit the same to the appropriate Government. So far no exemption application has been received by the Government through the prescribed channel. The applications received by the Government direct have been forwarded to the EPF organisation for necessary action as per the scheme.

[Translation]

Relief to Labourers

143. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether an assurance of immediate payment of six months wage as relief to workers rendered unemployed as a result of Supreme Court directive to shift industries out of Delhi, has been given by the Government;

(b) whether a meeting was also held in May 1997 under the Chairmanship of the Union Home Minister which was attended by the Union Minister of Labour, the Chief Minister as well as the Labour Minister of Delhi, Lt. Governor of Delhi with the representatives of the Labour organisation to provide relief to workers rendered unemployed;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government for their rehabilitation/giving employment to workers rendered unemployed and the number of workers benefited?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR): (a) to (d) The Government of NCT of Delhi has given importance to the question of payment of legal dues to the workmen/employees due to shifting of industries out of Delhi as a result of the Supreme Court directive.

A meeting was held on 8.5.97 under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Union Home Minister, wherein among others, Union Minister of Labour, Lt. Governor, Govt. of NCT of Delhi, Chief Minister, Minister of Industry and Labour, Delhi were present to sort out various issues arising out of the directive of the Hon'ble Supreme Court.

The Govt. of NCT of Delhi has taken steps to provide information/guidance regarding location/availability and rates of industrial land available to facilitate rehabilitation of industries affected by the Supreme Court orders.

[English]

Purchase of Products from Hindustan Latex for Family Welfare

144. SHRI N.K. PREMCHNDRAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have imposed any restrain over the purchase of the products for family planning from Hindustan Latex;

(b) if so, the details thereof and whether the Government are aware that this would adversely affect the functioning of Hindustan Latex in Kerala;

(c) whether the Government consider to purchase the entire requirement for family planning exclusively from public sector units as Hindustan Latex; and

(d) if not, reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) and (d) The requirements of Family Welfare Programme are procured on the basis of the Rate Contracts finalised through a process of competitive bidding. However, some preference is given to public Sector Units in placement of orders, price remaining the same.

[Translation]

Unemployment—Ninth Five Year Plan

145. SHRI NITISH KUMAR:

PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have assessed the unemployment problem in the country before finalising Ninth Five Year Plan;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) if so, the projections of unemployed youths in the country in the beginning and at the end of the Ninth Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR): (a) to (c) The employment and unemployment problem of the country is being assessed by the Government on regular intervals. As per the latest comprehensive survey of employment and unemployment conducted by the National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) in their 50th Round (1993-94), the estimates of unemployed persons according to Usual Principal Status (UPS) is 8,995 million. The year-wise data of unemployment is not available.